

Appl. No. 09/976,182  
Amdt. Dated October 4, 2007  
Reply to Office Action of May 25, 2007

**• • REMARKS/ARGUMENTS • •**

The Office Action of May 25, 2007 has been thoroughly studied. Accordingly, the changes presented herein for the application, considered together with the following remarks, are believed to be sufficient to place the application into condition for allowance.

By the present amendment, claims 1 and 4 have been canceled and claims 9 and 10 have been rewritten in independent form.

It is submitted that the changes presented to claims 9 and 10 are properly enterable after final rejection inasmuch as the Examiner had indicated that claims 9 and 10 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form.

Entry of the changes to the claims is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-4, 9 and 10 are pending in this application.

Claim 1 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,931,827 to Buell et al.

Claim 4 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Buell et al.

On page 4 of the Office Action the Examiner has objected to claims 2, 3, 9 and 10 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but has otherwise indicated that claims 2, 3, 9 and 10 would be allowed if rewritten in independent form.

Claims 1 and 4 have been canceled herein.

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Accordingly, the outstanding prior art rejections in the Office Action have been overcome.

Claims 9 and 10 have been rewritten in independent form and are therefore in condition for allowance, together with claims 2 and 3 which were previously allowable.

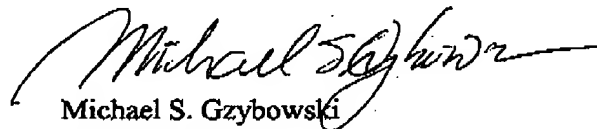
Therefore, entry of the present amendment and an early allowance of the application are believed to be in order.

It is believed that the above represents a complete response to the Office Action and reconsideration is requested.

If upon consideration of the above, the Examiner should feel that there remain outstanding issues in the present application that could be resolved; the Examiner is invited to contact applicants' patent counsel at the telephone number given below to discuss such issues.

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 CFR §1.136 is hereby made. Please charge the fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account No. 12-2136 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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